

**George Washington to William Howe, August 17, 1776,  
The Writings of George Washington from the Original  
Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick,  
Editor.**

**To SIR WILLIAM HOWE**

Head Quarters, New York, August 17, 1776.

Sir: I do myself the Honor to transmit the inclosed Letter from Major French, and at the same time to inform you, that his Exchange for Major Meigs, whose Parole I am advised you have, will meet my Approbation. I would take the Liberty also to propose an Exchange of any Captain you may chuse, for Captain Dearborn,<sup>1</sup> whose Parole I have heard was delivered you with Major Meigs's.

Give me leave to assure you Sir, that I feel myself greatly obliged by the polite conclusion of your Letter of the 1st. instant, and have a high sense of the Honor and Satisfaction I should have received from your personal Acquaintance. The different State of the Colonies from what It was last War and which has deprived me of that Happiness, cannot be regretted by any one more than Sir Your etc.

<sup>1</sup>apt. Henry Dearborn, of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He had been captured at Quebec and was exchanged in March, 1777, and, later, was promoted to major and lieutenant colonel of the Third New Hampshire Regiment. He was Secretary of War of the United States, 1801–1809, and a major general in the War of 1812.